

Message Text

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SUBJECT: OLOMOUC ENGLISH TEACHING SEMINAR

1. FORTY-ONE CZECH AND SLOVAK TEACHERS OF ENGLISH, LARGELY FROM TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTES RECENTLY COMPLETED TWO-WEEK LANGUAGE SEMINAR IN IMPORTANT MORAVIAN CITY OF OLOMOUC, SITE OF ONE OF THE LARGEST CONCENTRATIONS OF SOVIET TROOPS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. FIFTEEN FRENCH AND 50 RUSSIAN TEACHERS WERE ALSO PRESENT.

2. P&C CONTRIBUTION INCLUDED PRESENCE OF PROF. MILNE HOLTON, WHO NUMEROUS PARTICIPANTS SAID WAS THE MOST IMPRESSIVE OF THE EIGHT LECTURERS (3 RUSSIAN LADIES, WHO ARRIVED A WEEK LATE, 2 FRENCH, TWO BRITISH AND ONE AMERICAN). TEN USIA FILMS WERE SHOWN AND QUANTITIES OF ICS ENGLISH TEACHING MATERIAL WERE DISTRIBUTED. SOME TEACHERS SAID THAT IT WAS THE ONLY ENGLISH TEACHING MATERIAL THEY HAD AT ALL FOR THEIR GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES. PAO, IN SESSION WITH TEACHERS, TOOK ADDRESSES FOR ENGLISH TEACHING FORUM AND FILM CATALOGUE, AND RESPONDED TO SEVERAL SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR MATERIAL.

3. DISCUSSIONS WITH PARTICIPANTS POINTED OUT: (1) CZECH INTEREST IN AMERICAN LIFE AND CULTURE IS DEEP AND (2) GOC RECOGNIZES NEED FOR EXPANDED ENGLISH TEACHING AND SEEKS TO ASSIDUOUSLY CONTROL IT. EXAMPLE: NO FULL PROFESSORS OF ENGLISH IN COUNTRY, WHILE NUMEROUS POSSIBILITIES FOR CAREER ADVANCEMENT IN SLAVIC LANGUAGES.

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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 02477 251134Z

TWO PROVINCIAL PROFESSORS SAID THEY TRIED TO JOIN PARTY AS THEY

HAD ADVANCED AS FAR AS THEY COULD WITHOUT PARTY BLESSING. BOTH WERE CRUDELY TURNED DOWN AND TOLD THE PARTY IS NOT SEEKING YOUNG INTELLECTUALS AS MEMBERS. ONE-MAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROFESSOR AT OLOMOUC, WHOM HOLTON REGARDS AS BEST QUALIFIED CZECH WORKING IN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND HISTORY CAN ONLY PRESENT BICENTENIAL SEMINAR IF COVER FOR IT IS WORKS OF GUS HALL AND AMERICAN COMMUNIST PARTY.

4. COMMENT: EXTREME DIFFICULTIES NOTWITHSTANDING, INTEREST IN AMERICAN STUDIES IS ALIVE AND WELL IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. EMBASSY WILL RAISE WITH MINED HOW WE MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO ADDITIONAL SEMINARS, AND POSSIBLY THE PLACEMENT OF A FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR IN AN IMPORTANT CENTER, SUCH AS BRNO.

PERRY

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